Lack of modern weapons with para-military forces

684. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's para-military forces and police have been given obsolete rifles and other equipments. While militants have modern weapons when they attack, as was done in attack on American Information Centre at Kolkata on 22nd January, 2002; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving modern weapons to para-military forces personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Modernisation of Central Para Military Forces and State Police forces is a continuous exercise. During the last few years, the Government has given special attention to upgrading the striking capability of CPMFs by induction of modern and sophisticated weaponry and equipment to neutralise the attack by militants and terrorists. Old series of weaponry of the CPMFs is being phased out and gradually being replaced by modern state-of-the art weapons.

Even though the trainning, equipping and modernisation of the State Police Forces is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government, yet the Central Government is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs for modernisation of their State Police forces, which includes assistance for procurement of sophisticated weaponry and equipment.

Personnel killed/injured in firing at American Centre at Kolkata

685. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of personnel killed and injured as a result of firing on the 22nd January, 2002 outside the gates of American Centre at Kolkata by terrorists;

(b) what is the number of persons who have since been arrested in this case and to which terrorist group these persons belong; and

(c) what are the details of compensation given to the victims of this incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per available information furnished by the State Government of West Bengal four police personnel were killed on the spot and sixteen were injured, one of whom later succumbed to injuries. Five persons have so far been arrested in connection with the incident. Linkages of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami have been revealed in this case.

(c) State Government has decided to pay compensation to the affected, as under:

I. An adhoc grant to the tune of Rs. 75,000/has been paid to each family from Kolkata Police Benevolent Fund;

II. An adhoc grant of Rs. 25,000/has been paid to each family from the charitable Fund of Kolkata Police Family Welfare Centre;

III. Rs. 1 lakh will be given shortly to each of the family under the coverage of Group Janata Accident Policy sponsored by Kolkata Police Family Welfare Centre;

IV. Rs. 2 lakhs will be given shortly to each family by Government of West Bengal.

ISI activities in Andhra Pradesh

686. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of news reports that the police of Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh have busted an ISI ring operating from the State;

(b) if so, the details of the activities of that ring;

(c) how many ISI agents were arrested in Andhra Pradesh in the last five years;

(d) State-wise details of the arrests of ISI agents in the same period;

(e) whether it is also a fact that many of ISI agents are being nabbed in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?